

My name is Sara Locke and I live in Oxford CT. I am the parent of 3 children - two of which have significant disabilities. Both of these children have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder and neither of them has a cognitive disability. My oldest son is 17 and when he exits the school system in a few years, he will not have access to the supportive services that would ensure his future as a contributing member of his community. My second son is now 14. He will enter High School next year and I am concerned for his future after high school as well.

Currently, services in CT for young adults with autism who do not have cognitive disabilities are extremely limited. Young (and older) people are excluded merely by their geographic location, by the presence of a co-occurring disability or mental illness or because of past or present involvement in the justice system. Expansion of these limited services would be a wise investment as often even minimal supports mean the difference between a life of dependence or a life of contribution to the larger community. I urge support of SB5558 in order to provide these much needed services and to enact a more fiscally responsible solution to the growing and imminent challenge of autism spectrum disorders.

Please feel free to contact me at this email or at the contacts listed below should you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,
Sara Locke
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